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19 FEB 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Operations
Deputy Director for Science & Technology
Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community
Deputy to the DCI for the National Intelligence Officers
General Counsel
Legislative Counsel
Director of Security
Chief, Information Review Staff
Administrative Officer, DCI

SUBJECT : Appreciation to Members of FOIA Working Group

1. At this point, when the major tasks of the Freedom of Information Working Group have been completed and when its members' roles are changing from that of Agency-wide planners to component senior advisors and coordinators, I would like to express my appreciation to you and your representatives for the contribution you have made.

2. As we knew would be the case from the beginning, our preparation for February the 19th and all that it may herald is imperfect. Nonetheless, in the 11 week period since the Management Committee was briefed and endorsed a working group approach, a great deal has been accomplished. Basic procedures have been agreed to; the extensive Federal Register regulations have been hammered out and sent to press; a central coordinating and processing staff element has been established and is functioning; component FOI officers have been designated throughout the Agency; and a detailed regulatory issuance has been published for the guidance of Agency employees. When you consider the complexity of the problem and that these results were obtained during a period which included both the holiday season and a time of dramatic increases in actual FOIA cases requiring the priority attention of many of the members, I believe the Group's record speaks for itself.

3. I am also pleased to have been advised by the Chairman that he has not worked previously with a group of this size addressing a complex situation where there has been the same degree of positive, timely and constructive input from all the members and where bickering and parochialism were so virtually non-existent. Please pass along my sincere thanks to all concerned.

/s/ John F. Blake

John F. Blake
Deputy Director
for
Administration

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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